

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 03912 110918Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 INR-07 CIAE-00 SP-02

L-03 PRS-01 OES-07 DLOS-09 PM-04 DODE-00 /063 W

-----120639Z 007664 /14-L

R 110826Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3824

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3912

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, JA

SUBJECT: ROK/JAPAN CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENT

REF: SEOUL 3855 (100610Z MAY 77) (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: ROK WELCOMES CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENT
RATIFICATION PASSAGE BY JAPANESE DIET LOWER HOUSE BUT
REMAINS SKEPTICAL ABOUT UPPER HOUSE PASSAGE. COMMENT
ON ROK/JAPAN RELATIONS HAS BECOME NOTABLY LESS EMOTIONAL
AND PRESS COVERAGE HAS BEEN ALMOST NON-EXISTENT DURING PAST
FEW DAYS. END SUMMARY

1. ALL ROK MORNING PAPERS MAY 11 HEADLINED AND REPORTED IN
DETAIL JAPANESE DIET LOWER HOUSE PASSAGE OF RATIFICATION
OF ROK/JAPAN CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENT. IN RELATED FEATURE
ARTICLES AND COMMENTARIES PRESS EMPHASIZED COMMON THEME
THAT RATIFICATION BY DIET UPPER HOUSE STILL APPEARS
DOUBTFUL. SOME PAPERS REGARDED LOWER HOUSE PASSAGE AS
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NOTHING MORE THAN GESTURE OF SINCERITY FROM JAPANESE LDP
GOVERNMENT.

2. FOLLOWING BRIEF FLURRY OF ACID COMMENTARY ON ROK/JAPAN
RELATIONS IN WAKE OF YOMIURI OFFICE CLOSURE LAST WEEK,
ISSUE OF ROK/JAPAN RELATIONS VIRTUALLY DISAPPEARED FROM
ROK PRESS FOR PERIOD OF FOUR TO FIVE DAYS. ONLY MENTION

OF SUBJECT DURING THIS PERIOD WAS OCCASIONAL GOSSIP COLUMN
ITEM TO EFFECT MOFA WAS ADOPTING "WAIT AND SEE" APPROACH.

3. MOFA ASIA DIVISION I (JAPAN) CHIEF PAK YUN TOLD
EMBOFF MAY 11 ROKG WAS MODERATELY ENCOURAGED BY LOWER
HOUSE ACTION BUT WAS STILL NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT OVERALL
CHANCE OF DIET RATIFICATION. PAK SAID BEST CHANCE FOR
UPPER HOUSE PASSAGE APPEARED TO BE EXTENSION OF DIET FOR
AT LEAST 11 DAYS WHICH, HE SAID, COULD MOST EFFECTIVELY
BE ACCOMPLISHED BY USING SOME OTHER, MORE URGENT, LEGISLATION
ON WHICH THERE WAS LESS DISAGREEMENT AS AN EXCUSE. PAK
SAID JAPANESE EMBASSY CONTINUED TO BE CAUTIOUS IN ITS
ESTIMATE OF PROSPECTS FOR AGREEMENT OF RATIFICATION AND
HAD GIVEN ROKG NO INDICATION HOW RATIFICATION MIGHT BE
ACCOMPLISHED. HE ALSO SAID GOJ HAD MADE NO REPRESENTATIONS
TO ROKG IN CONNECTION WITH CLOSURE OF YOMIURI OFFICE.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 11-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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